





HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L                      R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L    O F F I C E R    O F    H E A L T H

George            Cust  
M.B., Ch.B.,    D.P.H.

and

S E N I O R    P U B L I C    H E A L T H    I N S P E C T O R

John            Snowden  
M.A.P.H.I.

F O R    T H E    Y E A R    1 9 6 1 .

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HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1961.

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Chairman : Mr. A. Clark, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Mr. C.F. Putterill, C.A.

Mr. K.H. Bond.	Mr. N.J. Hill.
Mr. C.W. Curl.	Mr. H.A.F. Malden.
Mrs.E.D. Eastwood.	Mr. J.A. Seabrook.
Mr. L.T. Fowler.	Mr. V.E. Truss.
Mr. J.H. Fryd.	Mrs.C. West.
Mr. F.N. Gingell, M.B.E., J.P., C.C.	Mr. H.C. Williamson, J.P.
Mr. E.G. Hill.	

Public Health Committee.

Chairman : Mr. K.H. Bond.

Mrs.E.D. Eastwood.	Mr. J.A. Seabrook.
Mr. L.T. Fowler.	Mrs.C. West.
Mr. J.H. Fryd.	Mr. H.C. Williamson, J.P.
Mr. C.F. Putterill, C.A.	

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Councillors of  
the Harpenden Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the report on the health of Harpenden for the year 1961. It is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to present an Annual Report to his Council. This is done as a statutory report at the direction of the Minister of Health and a great deal of the contents and statistics in the report are given at his request.

Many of the necessary statistics are not available until five months after the end of the year under discussion, so the Medical Officer of Health very often sits down to write about the health of the district six months after the events in question have taken place. In addition some of the changes needed in the previous year have already taken place by the time the report is written and there is a strong temptation to anticipate events and write of the following year. In his 1960 Annual Report, Dr. Sleigh, knowing that it would be his last report before his retirement deliberately anticipated events and as he says in his foreword to his 1960 Report "I have added comments under various headings up to the 1st August, 1961".

Dr. Sleigh was responsible for the control of the whole of the work of the Health Department in 1961 and I take this opportunity to express my thanks to him for handing over the Department in such a very good shape. As I was not responsible for the work in 1961, I have kept my comments as brief and as general as possible and have prepared the report in the same form as in previous years.

From the vital statistics it is apparent that the general health of the people of the district was good. There were a large number of cases of infectious diseases notified the large majority of these being measles.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen. for all the consideration and help you have given me since I became the Medical Officer of Health at Harpenden. To Mr. Snowdon and his staff I would like to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of their duties.

I would also like to thank the Chief Clerk, my Secretary and staff of the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in the preparation of this report and for their work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. CUST.

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) : : : : : 3,157

Registrar General's estimate of resident population : 18,380

Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:

Inhabited dwelling-houses (including flats  
and huts but excluding caravans) : : 5,955

Shops with living accommodation : : : 67

Licensed premises with living accommodation : 24

Rateable Value : : : : : £330,698

Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated) : : £1,336

<u>Extracts from Vital Statistics.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births - Legitimate	144	142	286
Illegitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate Live Births (% of total live births)	:	:	3.1%
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	:	:	16.1
Comparable Birth Rate + : : :	:	:	15.7
Still Births	1	1	2
Still Birth Rate (i.e. per 1,000 total live and still births) : : :	:	:	6.7
Deaths	73	89	162
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : : :	:	:	9.7
Comparable Death Rate + : : :	:	:	8.8

+ In order to make comparisons between the rates in different areas of the country as a whole the Registrar General has supplied Comparability Factors to be applied to the Birth and Death rates so that comparisons can be made.



	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from pregnancy, Childbirth, or Abortion	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 (total live and stillbirths)	:	:	3.4
Deaths of Infants under 1 Year			
Legitimate	5	3	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (all infants per 1,000 live births)	:	:	27.1
Legitimate Infant Deaths (per 1,000 legitimate live births)	:	:	28
Illegitimate Infant Deaths (per 1,000 illegitimate live births)	:	:	-
Neonatal Death Rate			27.1
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	:	:	17
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)			23.6

There were 10 less deaths in 1961, than in 1960, and our death rate compares very favourably with the national rate of 12.0

There was a decrease in the number of births in 1961, the number dropped from 354 to 286. Our birth rate of 15.7 compared to the national rate of 17.4.

Eight babies died under the age of one month giving us a Neonatal death rate of 27.1, and an Infant Mortality Rate of 27.1. These compare unfavourably with the national figure of 21.6 and 15.5 respectively. The cause of these deaths were :-

Female	: 1 day	- Prematurity.
Male	: 14 hours	- Prematurity.
Male	: 2 weeks	- Congenital Malformations.
Male	: 2 weeks	- Congenital Malformations.
Male	: 2 days	- Congenital Malformations.
Female	: 3 weeks	- Congenital Malformations.
Female	: 2 days	- Birth Injury.
Male	: 19 hours	- Blood Abnormality.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	2
14. Other Lymphatic and Malignant Neoplasms	6	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	2
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	22
18. Coronary Disease, angina	15	4
19. Hypertension	1	3
20. Other Heart Disease	5	14
21. Other Circulatory Disease	4	8
22. Influenza	-	1
23. Pneumonia	5	4
24. Bronchitis	6	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	1
31. Congenital Malformations	2	1
32. Other Defined and Illdefined Diseases	6	6
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	-
34. All Other Accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	2	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total</u> :	73	89
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Cancer Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) - 1.85

Heart Disease  
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated population) - 2.29

As usual deaths from Heart Diseases and Cancer were the most common cause of death. 26 people died as a result of strokes. There was one death as a result of Childbirth. 60.6% of all deaths occurred in people over the age of 70 years.



## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Welfare Centres and Clinics.

The County Council Child Welfare Clinics are held at No. 40 Luton Road, every Wednesday afternoon, the Doctor being in attendance on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of each month and at Batford Junior School, on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons. An Infant Welfare Clinic is also held at the Methodist Church Hall, Southdown Road, on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

The Ophthalmic, Dental and Speech Therapy Clinics are at 40 Luton Road by appointment.

This arrangement is working very well. At Batford we are deeply indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. G. Rees, for his enthusiastic co-operation.

#### National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the Health services administered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work.

#### Ambulance Service:

I am indebted to Mr. Gunnett, Divisional Officer and Mr. Bowden, Ambulance Staff Officer for the following report and for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

During the year 1961, the directly provided Ambulance Services at St. Albans and Harpenden carried 29,770 patients and covered 165,552 miles. This is an increase of 202 patients and 1,861 miles over the previous year. The Hospital Car Service during the same period carried 1,317 patients and covered 75,034 miles.

An important advance has been made by the decision of the County Council to increase the establishment in order that a Training School for ambulance personnel may be instituted. A syllabus of training has been drawn up and during the coming year all men with little experience will be given the benefit of a comprehensive instruction.

## Hospitals:

The Harpenden Memorial Hospital forms part of the Luton and Hitchin Group administered by the Management Committee under the North-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Four House Committees have been appointed by the Management Committee, one of which is concerned with this hospital and for this purpose the hospital is linked with Welwyn and Stevenage.

## Statistics.

Year ended, 31st December, 1961.

<u>Bed complement:</u>	Surgical and Medical	:	22	
	Maternity	:	<u>12</u>	34
<u>Average daily number of occupied beds:</u>		:		19.27
<u>Admissions:</u>	:	:	:	651
<u>Discharges:</u>	:	:	:	648
<u>Number of Births:</u>	Live	:	:	291
	Deaths	:	:	2

<u>Physiotherapy Dept:</u>	<u>New Patients.</u>	<u>Attendances.</u>
In-patients	175	789
Out-patients	519	6,634
<u>Casualty Dept:</u>	915	1,044
<u>Specialist Consultations:</u>	874	1,167
<u>Out-patients treated by General Practitioners:</u>	98	119

### Home Nursing:

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home where a request is made personally or at the request of the Doctor in attendance.

The two nurses in Harpenden during 1961 paid 7,707 visits to medical cases and 789 visits to surgical cases. Of this total number of 8,496 cases, 6,466 were aged 65 years and over, whilst 147 were under the age of 5 years.

### Domiciliary Midwifery:

There are two midwives in Harpenden who incidentally are also the home nurses. The two midwives attended 80 domiciliary confinements during 1961, and paid 1,087 visits to mothers and babies after the delivery. To those mothers and babies who were discharged early from hospital 361 visits were paid. A total of 862 Ante Natal visits were paid to expectant mothers and a further 1,001 Ante Natal patients were seen at the Doctors surgeries.

### Health Visiting:

There are three Health Visitors in the area. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons suffering from illness, and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

### Health Visiting Statistics:

During 1961, the Health Visitors paid 5,091 visits to children under the age of 5 years and a further 278 visits were made for a variety of purposes in their capacity as health visitors. The number of children under the age of 5 years who were under supervision by the three health visitors in Harpenden at the end of 1961, was estimated to be 1,604.

The Health Visitors attended 127 child welfare centres during the year and attended 113 medical and pre-medical sessions at schools. In addition 31 sessions of personal hygiene inspections were held involving a total of 4,582 school children. In their capacity as school nurses, the Health Visitors also paid 237 follow up visits to school children.

## Home Help Service:

This service is administered by the Hertfordshire County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age, within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Department Staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors, midwives, and hospital almoners. No one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular, so much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the help that is needed because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas to Easter when of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

The average number of Home Helps employed in Harpenden during 1961, was 11. A total of 142 cases were served during the year and were in the following categories.

Chronic Sick	:	71	+
Maternity	:	40	
Acute Illness	:	25	
Accident	:	2	
Blind	:	3	
Tuberculosis	:	1	
		<hr/>	
		142	
		<hr/>	

+ (65 were Old Age Pensioners)

Mrs. C.E. Darbyshire is the Home Help Organiser for the Harpenden area and she has now an office at 40 Luton Road, Harpenden.



## SECTION C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply:

The water supply for the whole area is supplied by a private undertaking, The Colne Valley Water Company, whose headquarters are at Watford but the local office and pumping stations have been retained under the control of an Area Engineer.

The supply of water, which has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, is obtained from two boreholes, one in Shakespeare Road and one at East Hyde, which is just outside the District. The raw supply at both boreholes is chlorinated as a precautionary measure and very few complaints are now received as to taste or contamination.

Samples taken during the year were as follows :-

	<u>By Water Company.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
Bacteriological - main supply	64	2

Results in all cases were satisfactory. The degree of hardness is in the region of 25 and is such that no difficulties arise from plumbo-solvent action.

As far as is known every house in the district is supplied with water from the main supply and the number of standpipes still in use is very small indeed. The number of inhabited dwellings on the 31st December, 1961, was 5,955 and the estimated population was 18,380.

#### Sewerage:

The majority of properties in the district enjoy main drainage facilities and the sewage is treated at one main sewage works under the control of the Council's Surveyor.

Despite the rapid growth of the district in post war years the sewage works by appropriate expansion have been able to cope adequately with the increased load and the effluent which is discharged into the river Lea has continued to be found satisfactory.

The total quantity of sewage treated at the Sewage Works was 272,045,000 gallons compared with 255,436,000 gallons in 1960, and 228,303,000 gallons five years ago.

There are 55 cesspools in use which serve scattered small groups or single properties and although it may be possible to connect some of these properties to main drainage in due course, the majority will remain out of reach of public sewers for some time.



## Public Swimming Bath:

In May, 1960, the first public swimming bath in the district was opened. It is sited in the open air in Rothamsted Park and consists of the main pool which is 50' x 100' with a depth varying from 3' to 9' and a childrens pool 50' x 30' the depth of which is 1' to 2'.

The water from the pools, the total capacity of which is 210,000 gallons, is obtained from the main supply and is treated by pressure sand filters followed by break-point chlorination with the requisite chemical dosing to maintain pH at the correct level. The water is circulated through the pool and treatment plant whereby a complete turnover occurs every six hours whilst the pool is open and is continued through the night during the peak season.

Twice daily tests to ascertain the pH, free, residual and combined chlorine were carried out at the pool and in addition 16 bacteriological samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with satisfactory results in each case.

SECTION D.HOUSING.

Number of new houses and flats erected during the year:

(a)	By the Local Authority	:	:	24
(b)	By private enterprise	:	:	247
				<hr/>
				271
				<hr/>

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	:	:	:	120
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	:	:	:	135
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925	:	:	:	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	:	:	:	-
(iii)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	:	:	:	3
(iv)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	:	:	:	55

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice:

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	:	:	:	56
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during this year:

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957:

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:
  - (a) By Owners -
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 55
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:
  - (a) By Owners -
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners -

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks : NIL.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1961.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	29	-
Whooping Cough	3	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-
Measles	622	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-
Dysentery	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-
Malaria	-	-
Undulant Fever	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	61	-
Food Poisoning	-	-
Gastro Enteritis	-	-
Pneumococcal Meningitis	-	-

Measles is a disease which usually assumes an epidemic form every other year. 1961 was an epidemic year and 622 cases were notified.

61 cases of Infective Hepatitis were notified.

Smallpox:

There were no cases during 1961.

Vaccination:

Number of Persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1961.

<u>Age at 31st December:</u>	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-15</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number vaccinated	237	91	16	6	26	376
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	2	7	42	51

Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above)

- NIL -

Number of births registered for Harpenden : 295

Of the total number of vaccinations 427, 43 were carried out at County Council Clinics.

Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough Immunisation:

Number of children who completed a Full Course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's Area (including temporary residents) in 1961:

Age at date of Final Injection.

<u>Under 5.</u>	<u>5 - 15.</u>
390	15

Total - 405.

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Number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection (i.e. subsequent to complete Full Course):

Total - 135.

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Births for the same area : : 295

In addition to the above 162 children received boosting injections of Diphtheria only and 17 primary injections against diphtheria were given.



## Programme of Protective Inoculations:

<u>Approximate Age.</u>		<u>Vaccine.</u>
2 - 6 months	1st	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
	2nd	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
	3rd	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
7 - 10 months.	1st	POLIOMYELITIS.
	2nd	POLIOMYELITIS.
	3rd	POLIOMYELITIS.
Up to 2 years.		SMALLPOX.
15 - 18 months.		COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.
School Entry.		POLIOMYELITIS
School Entry.		COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus
8 - 12 years.		SMALLPOX revaccination.
13 years Plus.		TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G.).

### 4th Injection:

In April, 1961, the Ministry of Health announced on the wireless and in the Daily Papers, that it was advisable for all children, aged from 5 to 11 years, to have a 4th injection of poliomyelitis vaccine. No prior intimation was sent out to Health Authorities and the first day after the Minister's announcement we received many enquiries regarding this and had no official knowledge of it. Due unfortunately to shortage of vaccine which developed later in the year as a result of large "crash" vaccination programmes in areas where poliomyelitis outbreaks occurred, many of these 4th injections had to be postponed.

### B.C.G. Vaccine:

If this vaccine is to be, or has been, given to a young child contact, there should be no immunising injections of any kind for two weeks before or for six weeks afterwards.

Tuberculosis:

Cases on Register as at 31st December, 1961.

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	
58 (55)	32 (32)	7 (7)	11 (10)	108 (104)

Figures as at 31st December, 1960, are in brackets.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department.

The rapid growth of the district in recent years has brought with it a corresponding increase in the amount of day to day routine work. The systematic inspection of premises within the district is a duty which must not be neglected if a high standard is to be maintained. The standard of food premises has improved considerably and the example set by the many firms which have become hygiene conscious is, I hope, one which will continue to spread.

I commented in my Report for 1960 about the lack of response from property owners in taking advantage of the facilities offered for obtaining Improvement Grants to bring their properties up to present day standards. There are still many houses; in fact, in some districts whole roads; where the properties are ideal for modernisation to Improvement Grant standards but very few have, in fact been modernised. It is surprising that with the advantage of good and full employment the standard of living conditions in many instances remains comparatively low and proper housing appears to be secondary in importance to the motor car or television set. One cannot help feeling that stronger powers to enforce improvements may become necessary if the standard of housing is to be substantially raised.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for the keen interest taken in the work of the Department and for their friendly and close support at all times.

In addition I must thank the members of my staff for their assistance in preparing the statistical information for the report and for their help in running the Department, where the volume of work and number of enquiries increase from year to year.

General Sanitation :

Public Health Acts - primary inspections	..	218
re-inspections	..	496
Drainage	..	88
Infectious Diseases	..	16
Moveable Dwellings	..	22
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	9
Disinfestations	..	1
Public Conveniences	..	1
Smell Nuisances	..	42
Keeping of Animals	..	9
Rodent Control	..	1,898 +
Housing Acts	..	213
Rent Acts	..	14
Factories Acts	..	147
Smoke Nuisances	..	10
Petroleum Regulations	..	62
		<hr/>
		3,246
		<hr/>

+ Includes 1,839 visits made by the  
Council's Rodent Operative.

Food Hygiene :

General Stores and Grocers	..	77
Cafes and Canteens	..	46
Licensed Premises	..	10
Bakers and Confectioners	..	21
Greengrocers	..	21
Butchers	..	20
Fish Shops	..	9
Dairies	..	6
Ice Cream Premises	..	25
Visits re sampling:		
Milk	..	16
Ice Cream	..	6
		<hr/>
		257
		<hr/>



Complaints:

During the year, 264 complaints were received and dealt with; 141 of these were regarding infestations by rats and mice; 65 were regarding one or more wasps' nests.

Drainage and Cesspools:

135 visits were made for the purpose of testing and checking existing drainage systems including cesspools. The arrangements whereby the St. Albans Rural District Council empty cesspools in the area were continued and during the year 56 emptyings were carried out. Difficulties do from time to time arise by the failure of property owners to give adequate notice that a cesspool will require emptying but nevertheless the co-operation received from Mr. D.J. Graham, Chief Public Health Inspector to the St. Albans Rural District Council has done much to alleviate these difficulties. The Council bear the cost of one emptying of a cesspool each year for premises not within the reach of the Council's sewers.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948:

The following tables show the prescribed particulars on the Administration of the Factories Acts:

Part 1 of the Act:

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health:

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Number Inspections.</u>	<u>Number of: Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority:	4	3	1	Nil
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	59	83	3	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises):	71	61	2	Nil
	—	—	—	—
	134	147	6	Nil
	==	==	=	==



2. Cases in which defects were found:

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>		<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>	
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred</u> <u>To H.M. By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector. Inspector.</u>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	Nil	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers).	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>

Part VIII of the Act:

Outwork - Section 110.

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. of Outworkers in August list required by S.110 (1) (c) (2).</u>	<u>No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.</u>	<u>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.</u>
Wearing apparel. Making etc. Cleaning and Washing	18 +	Nil	Nil
All other types of outwork	Nil	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—
<u>Totals:</u>	18	Nil	Nil
	==	==	==
+	Nine of these are employed by firms outside the district.		

Outwork - Section 111.

<u>Nature of Work.</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.</u>	<u>Notices served.</u>	<u>Prosecutions.</u>
Wearing apparel. Making etc. Cleaning and Washing.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
All other types of outwork	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	—	—	—
<u>Total:</u>	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	==	==	==

## Moveable Dwellings:

When the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act came into force in August, 1960, there were three private sites in use. Two of these had 12 caravans each and the third site 10 caravans. Licences under the new Act were subsequently issued with conditions incorporating all the main items of the model standards issued by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The three sites are maintained in a reasonable condition each having main water supply, flush toilets for both sexes supplemented by chemical closet disposal units. The demand for sites is by no means satisfied but nevertheless effective control has now been achieved. 22 visits were made to these sites during the year.

## Notices:

The following notices were served during the year. Compliance was effected without the need for instituting legal proceedings.

### Informal Notices.

Notices served during year	..	55
Complied with by owners		
during the year	..	56

### Formal Notices.

Notices served during year	..	Nil
Complied with by owners		
during the year	..	Nil

## Rodent Control:

The extermination of rats and mice is carried out as a free service to the occupiers of private premises. A charge is made in respect of business premises at an hourly rate to cover the cost of labour, materials and administration.

141 complaints concerning infestations by rats and mice were received and dealt with and treatment was carried out at 243 properties. For this purpose 1,898 visits were made and 187 dead rats were found.

The Council employ one Rodent Operative (Mr. E.A.C. Faram) for this work.

## Sewers:

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a ten per cent test of sewer manholes was carried out during the year. 101 manholes were test baited but no takes were recorded and it is reasonable to assume that the sewers were free of rats for the first time.

## Council Properties:

Careful supervision of the Council's Depots and Stores was maintained during the year and any infestation at the Sewage Works or Refuse Tip was dealt with by the Manager and Rodent Operative. Improvements in the method of operating the refuse tip have assisted considerably in checking rodent infestations.

## Wasps' Nests:

65 complaints were received of wasps' nests and 73 nests were treated by the Rodent Operative.



## CONTROL OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

### Meat Supply and Slaughtering Facilities:

No slaughterhouses have been used in the district since the war but adequate slaughtering facilities have been available in surrounding districts. The demand from local butchers for such facilities is, however, very limited indeed and most retailers seem now to rely on supplies of carcase meat from wholesale meat markets. A careful check has been kept on the vehicles used for transporting meat together with the protective clothing worn by the meat handlers.

Arrangements are still in force whereby assistance in meat inspection duties would be given to the St. Albans Rural District Council should the necessity arise at any time.

The following meat and meat products were condemned as being unfit for human consumption at premises in Harpenden during the year:

Poultry	5 lbs.
Tinned Meat and Meat Products.	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

### Other Food Inspections:

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and disposal by incineration or burying on the refuse tip was arranged in every case:

Flour and Cereals etc.	94 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned Fruit	1,478 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables)	
Soups and Fish )	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The large increase in the quantity of tinned food condemned during the year is due to the establishment of a wholesale food distributing depot within the District. A small proportion of the tinned goods received is found to be damaged in transit and, therefore, has to be condemned.



## The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955:

During the year 235 visits were made to food premises in the area and inspections were carried out under the above Regulations. No certificates of exemption were issued and all improvements were secured without the need for formal action by the Council. The Regulations appear to have been accepted by food traders as being reasonable in their requirements and at the same time essential in any food business.

### Food Premises:

There are 145 food premises in the area which are made up as follows:

General Stores and Grocers	40.
Cafes and Canteens	25.
Confectioners and Bakers	25.
Greengrocers	10.
Butchers	11.
Licensed Premises	25.
Chemists	6.
Fish Shops	3.

15 premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of sausages etc. and 33 visits were made to these premises. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

### Food Complaints:

Various complaints were received during the year regarding food sold from shops in the district. Such complaints tend to increase yearly, but I feel that this is due to the higher standards rightly demanded by the public, rather than any increase in the actual number of faulty or unsound products sold.

Each complaint was fully investigated, and, where necessary, was referred to the manufacturer. A local investigation was, of course, carried out with the shopkeeper concerned.

In dealing with complaints of a less serious nature, one has to appreciate the difficulties of distributing large quantities of foodstuffs and it is essential to maintain a fair balance between the interests of the consumer and the shopkeeper. Where, however, it was felt that legal proceedings were warranted, the Council did not hesitate to exercise statutory power.

### Legal Proceedings:

In two instances the Council decided that legal proceedings were justified and these were accordingly instituted under the provisions of The Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The first case concerned a loaf of bread containing a fly, where the defendants pleaded guilty and were fined Ten Pounds plus Eight Guineas costs.

The second case was of a much more serious nature where sausages were sold in an advanced state of decomposition, having been kept in the shop for at least three weeks before sale. The defendants were fined Fifty Pounds plus Eight Guineas costs. This case indicated the absolute necessity of ensuring that a proper system of stock rotation is adopted and that food should not be transferred to and from a refrigerator on several occasions before sale.

## Ice Cream:

There are in the district 57 premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and in each case the ice-cream is obtained from one of the well known large manufacturers. Practically all the ice-cream sold from these premises is pre-packed. No premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

It is interesting to record that the latest trend is towards the sale of "soft" ice-cream. This product is normally prepared by reconstituting with water a dried, pasteurised powder in a special dispenser. This operation is extensively carried out on mobile vehicles and the demand for the product appears to be increasing. This is an entirely new departure, as previously most of the ice-cream sold from such vehicles was pre-packed on registered premises where high standards of hygiene could be adequately assured. With "soft" ice-cream so much depends upon the actual operator on the vehicle and the storage facilities for the raw materials.

Effective control of mobile vehicles continues to be exceedingly difficult since they mainly operate at weekends and holidays and are all based at premises outside the Urban District.

25 visits were made to premises registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream and 6 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for examination, the results being set out below:

<u>Type of Sample.</u>	<u>Grade.</u>				<u>Total.</u>
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	
Pre-packed	6	-	-	-	6
Loose	-	-	-	-	-
	—	—	—	—	—
	6.	-	-	-	6.
	==	==	==	==	==

N.B.

Samples in Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory.

## Milk and Dairies:

There are in the district 14 registered distributors of milk and three registered dairies, although no milk is actually processed or bottled in Harpenden. Milk is supplied from three large plants in adjoining areas and only heat treated milk is now sold within the district.

Although the Council are no longer responsible for issuing licences authorising the use of special designations, it was felt that some check samples should be taken to ensure that milk sold within the district complied with the required standards and that no deterioration had taken place during storage or distribution to the consumer.

Details of milk samples are given below:-

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>Number examined</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Sterilised	1	1	-
Pasteurised	16	16	-
T.T. (Pasteurised)	13	13	-
Homogenised	1	1	-
	—	—	—
	31	31	-
	==	==	==



Housing Act, 1937:

During the year the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses was continued, when the tenants of three condemned properties were rehoused and four empty cottages were demolished. Since the programme was started in 1955, thirty-three houses have actually been demolished and a further twenty-five have been officially condemned. These twenty-five properties will be demolished as soon as the tenants can be found alternative accommodation.

Rent Act, 1957:

A summary of the applications received for Certificates of Disrepair during 1961 is as follows:-

<u>Applications</u> <u>received.</u>	<u>Notice</u> <u>by</u> <u>Local Authority</u> <u>to Landlords.</u>	<u>Applications</u> <u>received.</u>	<u>Under-</u> <u>takings</u> <u>received.</u>	<u>Certificates</u> <u>of Disrepair</u> <u>issued.</u>
<u>Form</u> <u>I.</u>	<u>Form</u> <u>J.</u>		<u>Form</u> <u>K.</u>	<u>Form</u> <u>L.</u>
1	1	-	NIL	1

Since the Act came into force, only 26 tenants of rent controlled property have applied for certificates of disrepair and it would appear that landlords with the benefit of increased rents have been able to carry out essential repairs with the result that tenants generally have not needed to seek the assistance of the local authority.

It is known that many protected tenants have been able to purchase their properties and it is significant that the number of rented houses in the district is rapidly diminishing.



## HOUSING MANAGEMENT.

During 1961 a further 4 new houses and 12 cottage flats were completed, together with 8 of a block of 23 elderly person's dwellings and thirty-seven garages.

The Council now owns 650 houses 202 flats, 32 elderly persons dwellings and 25 prefabricated bungalows making a total of 909 housing units.

Plans are in an advanced state for the replacement of the 25 prefabricated bungalows with permanent houses and flats. These bungalows have given good service but are now reaching the end of their useful lives and certainly given rise to some concern, particularly in the winter months when complaints of condensation are inevitably received.

Much thought has also been given to the re-development of the Heath Road area and it is hoped that during 1962, the Council's proposals will be finalised.

A further sixteen duplex flats were converted into eight houses during the year, and this problem is therefore, gradually being overcome.

The following visits and inspections were made in the performance duties connected with housing management:

To applicants	..	113.
Maintenance	..	2,125.
Administration	..	98.
Tenancies	..	58.

Summary of Housing Applicants.

<u>Applicants.</u>	<u>Active List.</u>	<u>Deferred List.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Married couples with children.	69	40	109
Married couples and Engaged Couples.	68	44	112
Single Persons.	17	6	23
Old Persons.	85	-	85
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	239	90	329
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The total number of applicants for housing accommodation continues to exceed 300, as it has done for several years. The number of applicants who can be considered in urgent need of accommodation is, however, relatively small, other than those in properties which have been, or will be, condemned. It must, however, be appreciated, that for many people the only chance of renting a house or flat with all modern conveniences is through the local authority, as house purchase, even with a 100% mortgage, is beyond their means due to the ever rising prices of property in this area.

The new system of allocating Council flats and houses was brought into operation during 1961 and the prime consideration in every case is on applicants "need" of accommodation. Other considerations, such as local residence, waiting period and military service are now of secondary importance. The scheme appears to be working fairly and has certainly overcome many of the difficulties attached to a "points scheme", which it was found tended to create anomalies.

A further 15 houses were sold during 1961 and 7 exchanges were agreed including one with a tenant of another local authority. Although only 10 houses and 4 flats became vacant during the year 28 tenancies were arranged as a result, thereby indicating the efforts made to resettle tenants in accommodation more suitable for their particular needs.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS.

The provisions of the Petroleum Acts and Regulations are administered by the Department. 31 occupiers of filling stations, repair garages and other premises are licensed to store petroleum spirit and 62 visits were made to such premises during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. SNOWDON,

Senior Public Health  
Inspector.